

POP STOP



Wei Te-sheng, above, is learning how to be a somebody. Jacky Wu, below right, is a sore winner.

The Golden Bell Awards (金鐘獎) handed out yearly laurels to the kings and queens of television on Friday of last week. Bickering and catfights promptly ensued, giving the world a glimpse into the alliances and feuds among the glitterati.

Entertainment host **Jacky Wu** (吳宗憲) waxed ecstatic when he was named best variety-entertainment show host for *Guess Show* (我猜我猜我猜猜) with co-hostess **Aya** (阿雅). Awarded the top honor for the very first time during his 20-year career, Wu did five push-ups out of sheer excitement on stage.

Things turned sour, though, when the funnyman was asked on Monday whether he felt intimidated by the comeback of **Chang Hsiao-yen** (張小燕). Long revered as the godmother of television, Chang's new family-entertainment show *Million Dollar Class* (百萬小學堂) hit the airwaves about one month ago.

Not known for his discretion, Wu confidently replied: "Didn't she withdraw from the leader's circle already?"

But Wu seemed to have calmed down the next day, since he offered to attend Chang's show for a special discounted fee as a gesture of reconciliation.

No sooner had shopping channel host-turned-star **Li Jing** (利菁) walked home with her first Golden Bell trophy as the best host in the category of singing entertainment for *Super Idol* (超級偶像) than the person who presented her the award, **Pauline Lan** (藍心湄), in a bit of backstage sniping, questioned the coarse-voiced lady's suitability for hosting a singing contest show.

"I am not a lesser singer than she [Lan] is," **Li** said in response to Lan's criticism, according to the *Apple Daily*. "I can put together a record album to prove it."

Pop Stop thinks the transsexual hostess would make better use of her time and public stature by fighting for the rights of her fellow transgenders in Taiwan.



PHOTO: TAIPEI TIMES

In other gong-related news, the Golden Horse Awards (金馬獎) revealed its nomination list last week. Heartthrob **Takeshi Kaneshiro** (金城武) was listed as a nominee for the best Taiwanese film worker of the year — for about seven hours. Takeshi isn't ineligible because he's a Japanese national.

Also caught in controversy is another nominee of Japanese nationality, **Chie Tanaka**. Nominated for the best newcomer for her performance in *Cape No. 7* (海角七號), Tanaka's eligibility was questioned because she has already played small roles in such films as *Initial D* (頭文字D).

Organizers said Tanaka wouldn't be scratched from the list, but they promised to make the rules clearer next year.

Pop Stop suspects Tanaka is getting preferential treatment because *Cape No. 7* beat Hollywood films at the box office and grossed more than NT\$450 million.

The movie has also made its director, **Wei Te-sheng** (魏德聖), a very popular man, but, according to unsourced rumors reported by *Apple Daily*, journalists have been muttering that Wei's success has gone to his head. Why? Apparently it's because he doesn't always answer his phone when they call him.

Wei responded by saying that he's still getting to used to going from being a nobody to a somebody in less than two months.

"Once I put aside my phone for five minutes and there were 18 missed calls," Wu was quoted as saying by the *Apple Daily*.

— COMPILED BY HO YI

Patchwork quilt for quick-changing world



The Taipei Folk Dance Theater (台北民族舞團) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with a weekend program titled *Crazy Taiwan 2008* at Taipei's Metropolitan Hall that celebrates the history and the diversity of Taiwanese culture.

Dance professor **Tsai Li-hua** (蔡麗華) founded the Taipei Folk Dance Theater in September 1988 to preserve and promote the country's dance heritage, which she saw as a mix of traditional Chinese dance and folklore, Hakka culture, Aboriginal cultures and modern dance. She drew upon her years of research into the music and movements of ethnic dances — going back to 1974 — to choreograph new pieces for her company, which was the first professional ethnic dance troupe in the country.

Tsai was part of a movement among Taiwanese theater and dance people in the 1980s to examine the cultural rituals of daily life and their society and move them from temple plazas and streets into theaters, a movement that included **Liu Ruoyu** (劉若瑀), who founded U-Theater (優人神鼓), and **Lin Li-chen** (林麗珍), who founded the Legend Lin Dance Theater's (無垢舞劇劇場). All three companies have become ambassadors for Taiwanese culture through the hundreds of performances they have given around the world.

On the program this weekend are four pieces, including one by Tsai, that reflect the company's mission and achievement in interpreting Taiwanese culture. Tsai said the program aims to show how new meaning can be drawn from updating tradition while staying true to its original spirit.

Tsai's piece, *Wild Taiwan* (狂想台灣), asks what does tradition mean and what role does it play in a technologically advanced, mass-communication society. Is tradition even still necessary? She has fused diverse elements from Chinese opera, Hakka culture, hip-hop street dance and Aboriginal culture into the work.

She said she was aided by input from her son, dancer-choreographer **Lin Wen-chung** (林文中), who took time out from working on his own company's inaugural production next month to give his mom and her dancers some "street moves."

Flower in the Mirror (鏡花), choreographed by **Hu Ming-shan**

(胡良山), is both a paen to and an examination of Chinese classical dance esthetics and traditions.

Witch in the Wind (風中的巫師), by **Liu Shu-ying** (劉淑英), blends the traditional Ami culture of what Liu called "Ami cultural warriors" and 100 years of "witch dancing."

Guo Rueli-ling's (郭瑞琳) *Oh God!* (神啊!) is a tribute to the role that deities play in everyday life in modern Taiwan: people ask them for help, pray to them for guidance and offer gifts ranging from food and tea to paying for opera performances for them. Tsai said the piece shows how the gods protect people, the earth and encourage everyday acts of kindness.

Taipei Folk Dance Theater productions appeal to both dance lovers and parents looking for family-friendly entertainment, with their mix of well-trained dancers, bright costumes and lively choreography.

— DIANE BAKER

PERFORMANCE NOTES

WHAT: Taipei Folk Dance Theater (台北民族舞團), *Crazy Taiwan 2008*
WHEN: Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
WHERE: Metropolitan Hall (城市舞台), 25, Bade Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市八德路三段25號)
TICKETS: NT\$600, NT\$900, NT\$1,200 and NT\$1,500, available through www.artsticket.com.tw

TOP FIVE MANDARIN ALBUMS OCT. 24 TO OCT. 30

1. **Mayday (五月天) and Poetry of the Day After (後青春期的詩)** with 38.98 percent of sales
2. **Original sound track from Cape No. 7 (海角七號)** with 19.41%
3. **Jay Chou (周杰倫) and Capricorn — Deluxe Package (魔杰座)** with 8.93%
4. **Shin (信) and Planet Music (集樂星球)** with 3.81%
5. **S.H.E and FM S.H.E — Future Radio Version (我的電台FM S.H.E -- 未來電台版)** with 2.86%

ALBUM CHART COMPILED FROM G-MUSIC (WWW.G-MUSIC.COM.TW), BASED ON RETAIL SALES

[EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT]

Theater

Fable To Be or Not To Be (漢字寓言: 未來系青年觀點報告) brings together five young performers who each chose a Chinese character to symbolize events in Taiwan over the past year. This week's performances feature three monologues and music performances.

- Guling Street Theater (姑蘆街小劇場), 2, Ln 5, Guling St, Taipei City (台北市姑蘆街5巷2號)
- Today and tomorrow at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$450, available through NTCH ticketing

The Legends of Daai (客家大戲 — 大陸風雲) by Rom Shing Hakka Opera Troupe (榮興客家採茶劇團) is a Hakka theater performance that explores the trials and tribulations of life under Japanese colonial rule.

- Novel Hall (新舞台), 3-1 Songshou Rd, Taipei City (台北市松壽路3-1號)
- Tonight and tomorrow at 7:30pm; tomorrow at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through NTCH ticketing

The Puppet and Its Double Theater (無獨有偶工作室劇團) revises its **The Happy Prince (快樂王子)**, a puppet performance based on Oscar Wilde's fairy tale of the same name.

- Yuanlin Performance Hall, Changhua County (員林演藝廳), 99, Ln 2,

Chungcheng Rd, Yuanlin Township, Changhua County (彰化縣員林鎮中正路二巷99號)

- Tomorrow at 2:30pm and 7:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$300, available through NTCH ticketing

Taiwan's expulsion from the UN in 1971 serves as the background for Ping-Fong Acting Troupe's (屏風表演班) latest work **Stand by Me (六義駭)**. Written and directed by Hugh Lee (李國修), the story follows six youths who use an air raid shelter as a meeting place to discuss their roles in history.

- Taichung Chungshan Hall (台中市中山堂), 98 Hsuehshi Rd, Taichung City (台中市學士路98號)
- Tomorrow at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,500, available through NTCH ticketing

Two love stories intersect in Off Performance Workshop's (外表坊時驗團) latest work **We'll Return Home This Morning to the End of the World (今天早上我們回家 · 直到世界盡頭)**.

- Huashan Cultural and Creative Industry Center (華山創意文化園區), 1, Bade Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市八德路一段1號)
- Today, tomorrow, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm; tomorrow and Sunday at 2:30pm
- Tickets are NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

Classical

Leif Ove Andsnes Piano Recital (名家系列 — 安斯內鋼琴獨奏會) features Norwegian-born pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, who has been acclaimed as "the most accomplished pianist of the new generation" by the *New York Times*. The pianist, who is visiting Taipei as part of his 2008 Asian tour, will perform works by Schubert, Janacek, Beethoven and Debussy.

- Today at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$500 to NT\$2,000, available through NTCH ticketing

France's King of the Piano — The Music Night of Tharaud (來自法國的鋼琴王子 — 亞歷山大·薩洛鋼琴之夜) sees French pianist Alexander Tharaud perform a program of Couperin, Ravel and Chopin.

- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City
- Tickets are NT\$400 to NT\$1,600, available through NTCH ticketing

2008 Toyota Concert Series — Vienna Operetta Orchestra (2008豐田古典音樂會 維也納輕歌劇管弦樂團) is an occasion for the lighter side of classical music with the Vienna Operetta orchestra and singers performing a program of Strauss, Mozart and Lehar, among others.

- Sunday at 7:30pm
- National Concert Hall, Taipei City

Highlight

The Music's debut Taiwan gig is at the Y17 Youth Activity Center on Nov. 16. The band is touring to promote its new album, *Strength In Numbers*, which is slated for release next year. *The Music* is touring to promote its new album, *Strength In Numbers*, which is slated for release next year. Made up of Leeds lads Rob Harvey (vocals), Phil Jordan (drums), Adam Nutter (guitar) and Stuart Coleman (bass), the group hit the big time when its album *The Music* made No. 4 in the UK charts in 2002. After some time out, *The Music* recorded its third album last year. The band's two gigs at Fuji Rock Festival in 2002 were hair-raising, more so than many of the top-drawer acts such as Bjork, Yo La Tengo and Primal Scream, with which it shared the billing.

- The Music plays Y17 Youth Activity Center (青少年育樂中心), 10F, 17, Renai Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路一段17號), tel: (02) 2342-2388, from 6:30pm to 8pm on Nov. 16. Doors open at 6pm
- Tickets purchased today are NT\$1,200, from tomorrow until Nov. 14 they're NT\$1,400, and are available online from tickets.books.com.tw or at the following venues: Roxy Jr Cafe, 1, Ln 80, Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路80巷1號), tel: (02) 2366-1799; The Tavern, 415, Xinyi Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市信義路四段415號), tel: (02) 8789 0892; Underworld (地下社會), B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1), tel: (02) 2369-0103; Paulina, 167, Anhe Rd Sec 2, Taipei City (台北市安和路二段167號), tel: (02) 2378-5678; MoRelax cafe, 20, Ln 60, Taishun St, Taipei City (台北市泰順街60巷20號), tel: (02) 2367-7714; Kafka on the Beach, 2F, 2, Ln 244, Roosevelt Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路三段244號2樓), tel: (02) 2364-1996;

- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$1,500, available through ERA ticketing

Lee Chin-I Bassoon Recital (李勤一低音管獨奏會), brings Lee Chin-I (李勤一), a bassoonist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, to the stage with piano accompaniment from Lin Hui-chun (林慧君).

- Tomorrow at 7:30pm
- NSO Recital Hall in Taichung (國立台灣交響樂團演奏廳), 738-2 Chungshan Rd, Wufeng Township, Taichung County (台中縣霧峰鄉中正路738-2號)

Rd Sec 1, Taipei City (台北市仁愛路一段17號), tel: (02) 2342-2388, from 6:30pm to 8pm on Nov. 16. Doors open at 6pm

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- Tickets are NT\$300 to NT\$500, available through NTCH ticketing

Contemporary It's a dance party weekend at **VU Live House**. Tonight features a night of music from DJs **Jonah, Arred, D.V.G., Bireg**, presented by **Tranquility Bass**. Tomorrow evening, it's The Soul, Sweat and Swank Show with an all-you-can-drink special.

- B1, 77 Wuchang St Sec 2, Taipei City

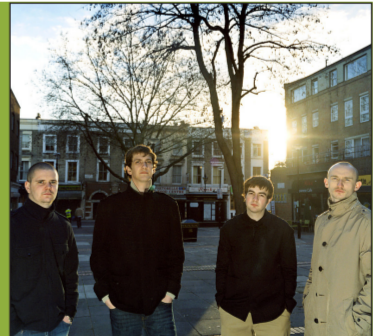


PHOTO COURTESY OF STRAIGHT MUSIC HOUSE

With nowt taken out, The Music. Norwegian Wood (挪威森林咖啡館), Ln 284, 9, Roosevelt Rd, Sec 3 Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路3段284弄9號); and Fucking Place (操場), 2F, 169, Heping E Rd Sec 2, Taipei City. Entry is NT\$1,500 at the door

- On the Net: themusic.pixnet.net/blog and www.themusic.co.uk

(台北市武昌街二段77號B1). Call (02) 2314-1868

- Shows begin at 10pm
- NT\$250 tonight, includes one drink; tomorrow night is all-you-can-drink at NT\$500 for men, and NT\$400 for women

Tonight **Underworld (地下社會)** hosts **Abay** (鄭培雅), who sings ballads accompanied by acoustic guitar, harmonica and flute and post-rock band **The Peppermints (薄荷葉)**. Tomorrow features the whispery, high-pitched

voice of **Ban Ban** (斑斑), who plays solo acoustic music; also appearing is psychedelic alt-rock band **Flat Club** (假文藝青年俱樂部). Wednesday is a headbanger's night with metal bands **Vulcan and Demise** (霹靂).

- B1, 45 Shida Rd, Taipei City (台北市師大路45號B1). Call (02) 2369-0103 or visit www.upsaid.com/underworld for more information
- Shows run from 9:30pm to 11:30pm tonight and tomorrow, and from 9pm to 11pm on Wednesday
- Entrance is NT\$300 for all performances

At **The Wall (牆牆)** tonight, pop-punk band **Punkhoo** (胖虎) and metal core/emo band **831** (八三天) hit the stage as part of their fall tour of Taiwan. Tomorrow night is a tribute to **Chang Yu-sheng** (張雨生), the pop singer, composer and producer best known for discovering **A-mei** (張惠妹). Performers include Taiwanese folk songstress **Jasmine** (庭竹) and rock band **Cousin James** (詹姆士表哥). On Wednesday **The Chairman** (董事長樂團) hosts a memorial tribute concert to their former lead singer, **Guan Yu** (冠宇), who died of leukemia in 2000.

- B1, 200, Roosevelt Rd Sec 4, Taipei City (台北市羅斯福路四段200號B1). Call (02) 2930-0162 or go to www.thewall.com.tw for more information
- Starts at 7:30pm tonight, 8pm tomorrow and 8:30pm on Wednesday
- Admission is NT\$400 tonight and tomorrow; NT\$300 on Wednesday